

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05

OES-05 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 H-02 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-10 SS-15 /106 R

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APPROVED BY EA/TB - JAKLEMSTINE

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EA/RA - WGALLAGHER (INFO)

S/NM - JRAFFERTY (DRAFT)

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R 202215Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

UNCLAS STATE 013374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: CODELL WOLFF: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 12467

1. AS INDICATED (REFTEL), FOLLOWS IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE
PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON JANUARY 17 IN CASE HE
RECEIVED INQUIRIES ABOUT CONGRESSMEN WOLFF'S AND MURPHY'S
PRESS STATEMENTS. (FYI: NO QUERIES WERE MADE AT NOON
BRIEFING AND NO ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS.
END FYI).

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2. TEXT: QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOING TO GAIN BURMESE COOPERATION IN THE WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING?

ANSWER: THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PERSISTED IN ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE IN A COMMON EFFORT AGAINST THE PRODUCTION, REFINING AND TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS. UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES ALSO HAVE JOINED IN THESE EFFORTS. PROGRESS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. MAJOR ACTIONS BY THE BURMESE INCLUDE:

(1). BREAKING UP BY MILITARY FORCE IN EARLY 1973 OF MANY NARCOTICS AND SMUGGLING GROUPS IN SHAN STATE, SOME OF WHICH HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY SERIOUS THREATS TO BURMESE GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

(2). ARRESTING MAJOR OPIUM TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED OPIUM KING, LO HSING-HAN. HIS TRIAL IS STILL IN PROGRESS.

(3). ISSUING A HARSH NARCOTICS LAW CARRYING SEVERE PENALTIES FOR THE SALE, PURCHASE AND TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS.

(4). RESPONDING TO A BURMESE REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES, THE U.S. SIGNED A NARCOTICS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH BURMA IN JUNE 1974 THAT PROVIDES FOR THE EVENTUAL SUPPLY OF 18 HELICOPTERS TO ENABLE BURMA TO AIRLIFT SECURITY FORCES INTO REMOTE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND REFINING AREAS. (THE FIRST THREE HELICOPTERS WILL BE DELIVERED THIS JUNE, FOLLOWED BY AN ADDITIONAL THREE IN SEPTEMBER.)

(5). INVITING THE UNITED NATIONS TO BEGIN A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR ENFORCEMENT AND CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM DESIGNED BOTH TO INCREASE BURMESE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES AND FIND ALTERNATE CROPS FOR THE GROWING OF POPPY.

3. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOING TO WORK WITH THE SHANS?

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ANSWER: VARIOUS SHAN INSURGENT/SMUGGLING GROUPS ARE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AS A MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD. THEY HAVE RESISTED EFFORTS OF THE PRESENT NE WIN GOVERNMENT TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO THE UNION OF BURMA. WE BELIEVE THE COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WILL PRODUCE THE BEST RESULTS IS TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS COMMON CAMPAIGN AGAINST NARCOTICS ABUSE. KISSINGER

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